



May 18, 2017

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

## APHIS Guidance Regarding the Destruction of Potential Genetically Engineered Petunias

Biotechnology  
Regulatory  
Services

4700 River Road  
Unit 91  
Riverdale, MD  
20737-1236

The Plant Protection Act gives the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) the authority to regulate genetically engineered (GE) organisms that may present a plant health risk, referred to as “regulated articles.” APHIS’ Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) regulates the introduction—meaning the importation, interstate movement, and environmental release—of GE organisms that may pose a pest risk to plants under APHIS’ biotechnology regulations at 7 CFR part 340.

BRS has learned that GE petunia have been imported, distributed, and grown in the United States without appropriate authorization. GE petunias are regulated articles.

The following petunia varieties have been confirmed by USDA to possess genetic sequences from plant pests, thus falling under regulatory authority of 7 CFR part 340:

- African Sunset
- Fortunia Early Orange
- Hells Bells Improved
- Salmon Ray
- Sweetunia Orange Flash
- Trilogy Mango
- Trilogy Deep Purple
- Trilogy Red
- Trilogy '76 Mix—Liberty Mix

The regulatory status of the following petunia varieties have not been confirmed by USDA. They have been implicated as potentially GE, as would any crosses with these varieties:

- Pegasus Orange Morn
- Pegasus Orange
- Pegasus Table Orange
- Potunia Plus Papaya
- Go!Tunia Orange
- Bonnie Orange – known as Starlet Orange in North America
- Sanguna Patio Salmon
- Sanguna Salmon
- Trilogy Formula Mix



Safeguarding American Agriculture  
APHIS is an agency of USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Program  
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

- Perfectunia Orange
- Perfectunia Mandarin
- Confetti Gardn Tangerine Tango
- Confetti Gardn Twist
- KwikKombo Color My Sunset
- KwikKombo Orange Twist
- Cascadias Red Lips
- Capella Red

This document serves as guidance to industry regarding how to destroy GE and potential GE petunias consistent with the regulations at 7 CFR part 340.

Any of the following methods may be used to destroy potential GE petunia plants if no seed are present:

- Double-bagged and incinerated
- Double-bagged and directly disposed of in a municipal landfill
- Burial under a minimum of one (1) foot of soil
- Autoclaving
- Composting, using a managed composting protocol

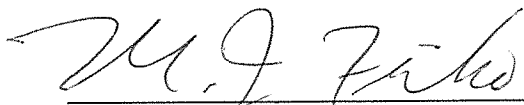
Any of the following methods may be used to destroy potential GE petunia plants if seed are present:

- Double-bagged and incinerated
- Double-bagged and directly disposed in a municipal landfill
- Burial under a minimum of one (1) foot of soil
- Autoclaving

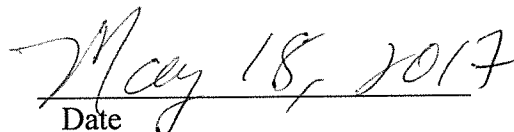
Any of the following methods may be used to destroy potential GE petunia seed:

- Grinding
- Autoclaving
- Burial under a minimum of one (1) foot of soil

USDA is currently identifying varieties which may contain plant pest sequences regulated by 7 CFR part 340. As we identify additional varieties, we will provide updated guidance.



Michael Firko, Ph.D.  
 APHIS Deputy Administrator  
 Biotechnology Regulatory Services  
 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
 United States Department of Agriculture



Date